

Appln. No. 09/696,095
Amdt. dated October 28, 2008
Reply to Office Action dated July 1, 2008

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The July 1, 2008 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are cancelled, amended, and added, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

In the Office Action claims 63-68 are rejected under the first paragraph of 35 USC 112 as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In response, claims 64, 65, 67 and 68 are cancelled and claims 63 and 66 are amended in a sincere effort to overcome the rejection under the first paragraph of 35 USC 112.

The amendments to claims 63 and 66 are supported by the application as originally filed, namely at least page 73, lines 8-17 and Step S61 of Fig. 27 (reservation at portable terminal); page 84, lines 16-20 and step S103 of Fig. 32 (reservation at

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printer); and page 86, lines 13-17 and Step S116 of Fig. 33
(print at printer).

Claims 63 and 66 are respectfully believed to fully comply
with the enablement requirement of the first paragraph of 35 USC
112.

In view of the cancellation of claims 64, 65, 67 and 68 and
the amendment of claims 63 and 66, reconsideration and withdrawal
of the rejection of claims 63-68 under the first paragraph of 35
USC 112 are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 102

In the Office Action claims 63-68 are rejected under 35
USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No.
US00639726 (Eldridge et al.).

In response, claims 64, 65, 67 and 68 are cancelled and
claims 63 and 66 are amended to more clearly define the present
claimed invention over the cited reference.

The present claimed invention is directed to a
communication unit configured to, when one of the portable
information terminals accesses the apparatus, transmit a content
selection screen image and a print format selection screen image
to the one of the portable information terminals which accesses

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the apparatus; a reception unit configured to receive a content name and print format information transmitted from the one of the portable information terminals which accesses the apparatus, the print format information comprising at least sheet selection information indicating a type of a printing sheet, and configured to store the received content name and print format information in a reservation information storage unit in associated with a user identification of the one of the portable information terminals which accesses the apparatus; a generation unit configured to read the content name and print format information from the reservation information storage unit, generate a print content based on the read content name and print format information, and transmit a print preparation complete notification to the one of the portable information terminals which accesses the apparatus; and a distribution unit configured to, when one of the printers accesses the apparatus, transmit a user identification input screen image to the one of the printers which accesses the apparatus, receive a user identification of a portable information terminal transmitted from the one of the printers accesses the apparatus, and transmit the print content and print format information corresponding to the received user identification to the one of the printers accesses the apparatus.

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The present invention has the following features.

(1) The user of the portable information terminal can select a content and make a remote printer print the selected content by using the portable information terminal.

(2) The user of the portable information terminal can select a sheet selection information indicating at least a kind of printing sheet and make a remote printer print the selected content on the selected printing sheet by using the portable information terminal.

(3) Since the print preparation complete notification is transmitted to the portable information terminal via an electronic mail, the user of the portable information terminal can immediately make the remote printer print the selected content.

(4) If the user of the portable information terminal inputs the user ID at a printer, the corresponding content and print format information are transmitted to the printer. The amount of data transmitted from the printer to the printing information distribution apparatus is small so that the cost for communication between the printer and the printing information distribution apparatus can be decreased.

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(5) The user of the portable information terminal merely inputs the user ID at a printer. As a result, the user input operation at the printer is very simple.

US 6,397,261 B1 (Eldridge et al.) teaches a system in which a document token for requesting a copy of a document is transmitted from a mobile computer of an issuer to a mobile computer of a holder. The token comprises an issuer content, a signature from an issuer, a holder content, and a signature from a holder. When a document server receives the token and authenticates the received token, the document server issues a copy of the document (see the Abstract of Eldridge et al.).

Thus, according to Eldridge et al., the document token is transmitted via an e-mail between users of an electronic mail client. The copy of the document can be issued when the document token is transmitted from a mobile computer of an issuer to a mobile computer of a holder. It is necessary to have the document token for issuing a copy of the document.

Therefore, according to Eldridge et al., it is necessary for the issuer to transmit the token to the holder. Thus, the holder cannot select a content and make a remote printer print the selected content by using the portable information terminal.

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Since the token transmitted by the issuer does not include print format information, the holder cannot select a sheet selection information indicating at least a kind of printing sheet and make a remote printer print the selected content on the selected printing sheet by using the portable information terminal.

According to Eldridge et al., it is necessary for the issuer to transmit the token to the holder. Thus, the holder cannot select a document token, cannot receive the print preparation complete notification via e-mail, and cannot immediately make the remote printer print the selected content.

According to Eldridge et al., it is necessary for the issuer to transmit the token to the holder. It is not possible to distribute the print content and print format information by merely inputting the user ID. The data amount of the document token transmitted from the issuer to the holder is larger than the user ID which is required to be input according to the present invention. Thus, the cost for communication is higher than that of the present claimed invention.

According to Eldridge et al., the holder cannot select a document token. Thus, the holder cannot input the user ID from

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the ID input screen and cannot make a remote printer print the selected content.

In view of the foregoing, claims 63 and 66 are patentable over Eldridge et al. under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

None of the other references of record close the gap between the present claimed invention as defined by claims 63 and 66 and Eldridge et al. Therefore, claims 63 and 66 are patentable over all of the references of record under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

NEW CLAIM

New claim 69 is added to the present application. Claim 69 is a computer-readable storage medium claim which corresponds to claims 63 and 66. Claim 69 is patentable over Eldridge et al. and all of the references of record for reasons, *inter alia*, set forth above in connection with claims 63 and 66.

It is respectfully believed that no claim fees are due for the addition of claim 69. However, if any additional fees are due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-1738 for such sum.

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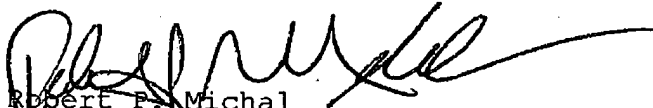
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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encl.: Petition for Extension of Time